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Shield Diplomat-Turncoat Who Spied for the Soviet

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by GUY RICHARDS

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An American diplomat, caught with irrefutable evidence that he had been a Soviet spy for 18 years, was allowed to resign and disappear in 1961 for fear his prosecution would trigger a major State Dept. scandal.

That's one of the biggest time-bombs under the hushed-up case of Soviet Secret Police defector, Lt. Col. Michal Goleniewski.

The hope of keeping buried forever the story of the high-level American turncoat, and that of his American mistress who worked in the Warsaw Embassy, is one of the prime motives behind the almost desperate attempts of the State Dept. and Central Intelligence Agency to keep Col. Goleniewski from testifying before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Other reasons behind those attempts are fear of his disclosure of 19 Americans working for the KGB (Soviet Secret Police), 12 in the State Dept., four in the CIA and three in U.S. scientific laboratories.

One subpoena for Col. Goleniewski's appearance before the Senate subcommittee already had been quashed at CIA's request before a series of stories in this newspaper began on March 2.

After the stories broke, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Feighan (D.-Ohio) won a promise from the CIA that Col. Goleniewski would be delivered to a secret session of the Senate panel. It's still touch-and-go, however, with political pressures on all sides.

Suspected all along but unknown to this reporter until yesterday was a more potent reason for the pressure and the reluctance of any Federal agency to say a word about the case since it first appeared in print here.

It was the Russians, it has now been learned—not any U.S. operative—who broke the Warsaw spy case of 1960-61.

They did it to save the valued professional agent they had in our embassy there.

They did it because they knew the heat was on and if they "surfaced" some minor offenders it could provide enough diversionary fanfare to deflect suspicion from their man.

Their ruse succeeded for a few months. Then it blew up with a bang which—though muffled from the outside world—reverberated in the highest pur-
lieus of the Government.

This blockbuster was the exposure of a KGB agent in our Warsaw Embassy who hadn't been touched by the earlier scandals. He was a lifetime State Dept. career man.

FUT THROUGH WRINGER

He was recalled to Washington instantly. He was put through the wringer by the CIA and FBI. He was subjected to lie-detector tests.

Evidence of his true role was painstakingly assembled from many parts of the world, including six cities where his record indicated he had served with distinction. The case against him was wrapped up tight.

It was devastating and irrefutable. All the agents who worked on it were sure it would go to a Federal grand jury as certainly as that of Irwin N. Scarbeck, whom a blackmailing Polish blonde persuaded to hand over classified documents to UB (Polish) and KGB agents.

Great was the surprise of the American investigators when a contrary decision came down from the command post in Foggy Bottom. The word was, "No prosecution. No word of the case to anyone."

So secret was the matter kept that a third salvo of bombshells from the Warsaw case came in rapid succession, as follows:

- The secret was kept from the Passport Division of the State Dept.

- The culprit picked up an American passport and departed for Europe, leaving his wife behind him.

- His brunet mistress, who had been recalled from Warsaw for questioning, promptly applied for and received a passport to return permanently to Europe as an American employed there.

- With the wife safely shelved back in the States, the two lovebirds of espionage are now reportedly operating freely in Europe with credentials which make it possible for them to duck under the Iron Curtain in either direction.

At this point in the narrative the ordinary citizen is entitled to wonder:

What possible service was ever rendered the nation by enveloping this case in secrecy, rather than prosecuting it?

This latest entry to the list of those who love the Soviet Union more than their native land is a tall, moustached, Michigan-born career man who will be 60 next May 8.

Continued

* Note: The Baltimore NEWS AMERICAN adds a paragraph: "Why those spies truly valued by the Russians are more often than not spared the penalties that go to lesser violators?"

CANNOT BE FOUND

His initials are "E.S." The only reason he's not named here is because I have not been able to give him a chance to speak his piece. I have offered a similar chance to CIA, State and the FBI, and all have declined. At least, however, they had the chance.

But in the case of "Mister S.", the Spy Who Got Away, I have been unable to find him or his mistress. I did manage to spend an hour reading his biographical notes in the various issues of the State Dept.'s "Biographical Register" which is on file in Room 228 of the N.Y. Public Library.

He was born in Grand Rapids . . . attended Marquette University and the U. of Warsaw . . . began his career with State in 1939 and served in a rising scale of jobs at Berlin, Moscow, Vladivostok, Istanbul, Ankara, Ascuncion, Panama, Poznan and last—starting on March 23, 1955—in Warsaw.

At the time the scandals started to break, he was only two echelons under Ambassador Jacob D. Beam, who is now in Geneva.

Said one high Government official, who has followed this case from the start:

"It's very complicated, so let me explain a few things.

"Starting in 1958, with Ambassador Beam at Warsaw, we began one of our more serious dialogues with a Red Chinese delegation. The Russians became passionately curious to know what was going on, and especially what the Chinese were saying.

They put heavy pressure on the KGB (Russian) and UB (Polish) Secret Police to ransack the American Embassy for information.

"That's when the Polish girls were turned loose on the 10 Marines; when four male members of the embassy staff were compromised by KGB temptresses; when a diplomat's wife was seduced by a handsome KGB male agent, and when Scarbeck fell from grace under the spell of Urszula Maria Discher, the girl with the intriguing voice.

"The important thing to remember is that it's about here that Col. Goleniewski came on the CIA radar screen.

"He has never to this day disclosed his real name or he would have been dead long ago.

"He established contact with CIA in Warsaw through what they call a 'cut-out.' That's a third party which blocks off any trail to a spy's real identity.

"Goleniewski said he wanted to defect. CIA said, no, stay in place. You're more useful in place. It was then he told CIA there was a big leak in the American Embassy.

"Later he told them there must be a reverse leak for he was getting back some of his own information. Remember, he was a high official of KGB.

"Also although he knew the Russians had an agent in the embassy, he didn't know his name, the system was that well compartmented. And the Russians didn't know Goleniewski's identity as an American informant. That was known only to one intermediary, whom Goleniewski could trust.

"To make a long story short, the Russians got scared. They 'surfaced' Scarbeck, a man who was highly expendable to them, and began a frantic hunt for the real Goleniewski.

"The surfacing of Scarbeck led to the wholesale discovery of minor security leaks, at our embassy, but the Russians held onto their real agent—"E.S."—until the early months of the Kennedy Administration.

"Goleniewski is the only one who led to his exposure. He finally spotted 'E.S.' Goleniewski was finding that his own days were numbered on the Red side. Against CIA's order, he showed up in Berlin in 1961. The jig was up for the American ('E.S.') who had been working for the KGB for 18 years. He was recalled.

"Goleniewski has turned out to be one of the CIA's greatest achievements. He bagged many other KGB spies. But you can understand why, as he turns his attention to other Americans who, like 'E.S.', also have been working for the Russians, there are enormous influences building up to keep his story buried, or to make people believe he's flipped his lid."

"For the arrows are no longer pointing only to the distant city of Warsaw, back in 1961. They are pointing to the government agencies in the nation's capital of Washington, D.C. in the presidential campaign year of 1964."